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Editor and Proprietor.

The President an Emperor.

The Spooner amendment to the Army Appropriation Bill vests in the President power and authority which can be exercised only by an emperor. By voting down the amendments offered, the republicans placed themselves on record as in favor of the exercise of arbitrary and imperial power by the chief executive. No restrictions are placed upon him and no time limit is fixed to his rule. He is supreme; he can appoint whomsoever he pleases; he can vest legislative, judicial and executive power all in one person, and that person is under no obligation to observe the Constitution in dealing with Filipino subjects. And this is done in the name of liberty! This is the policy of a party which sprang into existence to apply the Declaration of Independence to men entirely black! History presents no instance of a transformation so sudden and complete.

The amendment reads:

All military, civil and judicial powers necessary to govern the Philippines, acquired from Spain by the treaties concluded at Paris on the 10th day of December, 1898, and at Washington on the 7th day of November, 1900, shall until otherwise provided by Congress, be vested in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct for the establishment of civil government and for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion.

Provided, that all franchises granted under the authority hereof shall contain a reservation of the right to alter, amend or repeal the same.

Until a permanent government shall have been established in said islands full reports shall be made to Congress on or before the first day of each regular session of all legislative acts and proceedings of the temporary government instituted under the provisions hereof and full reports of the acts and doings of said government and as to the condition of the archipelago and of its people shall be made to the President, including all information which may be useful to the Congress in providing a more permanent government.

Provided, that no sale or lease or other disposition of the public lands or the timber thereon, or the mining rights therein shall be made, and provided further that no franchise shall be granted which is not approved by the President of the United States and is not, in his judgment, clearly necessary for the immediate government of the islands and indispensable for the interest of the people thereof, and which cannot, without great public mischief, be postponed until the establishment of permanent civil government; and all such franchises shall terminate one year after the establishment of such permanent civil government.

The provisions in regard to franchises are of little value, because the President must rely upon the representations of appointees in the Philippines and their statements will be ex-parte. Only the men who want concessions will be heard—the Filipinos will have no voice in the matter.

What advantage is there in having the fran-

chises terminate one year after a civil government is established, if that government is to be colonial in character and administered by foreigners?

If that provision has any influence at all, it will simply give a powerful group of concessionaires pecuniary interest in postponing the establishment of civil government. It may stimulate campaign contributions and lead to the establishment of a bureau in the United States for the dissemination of literature prejudicial to the Filipinos.

If the republican party is powerless to protect the people of the United States from monopoly, how can it be expected to protect the helpless inhabitants of remote islands?

In the campaign of 1900 the republicans strenuously denied that they had any imperialistic intentions and their denials deceived many, but here is proof that cannot be disputed. The President is an emperor, and will remain so until the republican party reverses its policy or until the people retire that party from power.

Robert Emmet.

The 4th of this month was the one hundred and twenty-third anniversary of the birth of Robert Emmet. Compare the world's attitude towards Emmet today with the sentiment which existed when he paid the penalty of his devotion to Ireland! The change which has taken place proves that the patriot may trust his motives to the verdict of history. It is true that when Robert Emmet went to the block he was not without friends, but their views are better understood and more respected now. The judge before whom Emmet was tried interrupted him on several occasions to express regret that Emmet was a disgrace to decent relatives, but the victim was devoted to his cause and the speech which he delivered on that occasion will live in history with the best specimens of eloquence.

Emmet's epitaph has not yet been written, because his country has not yet assumed its rightful position among the nations. But the spirit which prompted the sacrifices made by Emmet, the sentiment and principle to which Emmet's life was devoted, yet live, and these sentiments, these principles and this spirit have been an inspiration to men who were struggling in defense of popular government.

By a cruel fate Ireland, although she has given to the world some of the truest patriots and some of the strongest pleas in behalf of popular government, has made less progress toward the goal of her ambition than almost any other country. She has been preaching liberty, but has not been permitted to enjoy it. Surely her hope cannot be deferred forever; surely the day will come when Emmet's epitaph can be written.

Cuba Should Be Free.

The action of the administration in insisting that the Cuban constitution shall define that island's relation with the United States, is without justification in law or morals. It implies a threat that the United States will violate the written assurances given by the President, the resolution of Congress and the treaty made with Spain, if

the Cuban representatives refuse to concede what the administration demands. The title to Cuba was relinquished to the Cubans—it was not transferred to this nation. We have no right to demand that Cuba shall now make a treaty with us before we comply with the treaty already made. Cuba is our neighbor, a sister republic; we helped her to secure her independence and we have every reason to believe that she will show her gratitude in every proper way if we act in good faith. But why arouse the suspicion of her people or provoke them to anger? They are entitled to the liberty for which they fought, and the republican leaders are sowing seeds of discord when they acknowledge, as if grudgingly, the independence which was unanimously proclaimed three years ago.

At the final session of the Cuban convention words were spoken which indicated fear on the part of some of the Cubans that this nation was not dealing frankly with them, and it must be confessed that there is ground for their fears, but does the administration really represent the sentiment of the American people on this subject?

We cannot afford to turn from the role of a good Samaritan to the role of a dictator. We can understand how the Cubans feel now, if we will only imagine how the colonists would have felt toward France if she had demanded to have the relations between France and the United States agreed upon before withdrawing. Honesty and fair dealing are all that are necessary to insure peaceable and advantageous relations with Cuba, but for some reason the republican leaders prefer to pick a quarrel.

Is This Aristocracy?

Read the following letters:

United States Torpedo Station, Newport, R. I., Feb. 13, 1901.—Admiral William T. Sampson, U. S. N.—Dear Sir: The new bill whereby six gunners are to be commissioned ensigns tempts me to write you, trusting you will pardon the liberty I take in so doing.

As I served on the flagship New York during your command of the fleet you will know whether my abilities, whatever they may be, are of such merit as to warrant me filling the position of ensign. I would say here that I never use tobacco or liquor in any form.

If in your estimation I am worthy of this position I should be most grateful to you if you will recommend me to the department. I am, very respectfully yours,

CHARLES MORGAN,
Gunner U. S. N.

This was the indorsement which the admiral placed on the application:

Navy Yard, Boston, Mass., Feb. 14.—Indorsement 1: Respectfully forwarded to the navy department for its consideration.

2. Mr. Morgan has good professional ability. He also has, which distinguishes him from most other warrant officers, a gentlemanly bearing. If he were to be commissioned as an ensign he would probably compare favorably, both professionally and in per-